

CLAIMS:

Cancel the claims of record (1 to 7) and substitute new claim 8 as follows:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)

8 (new)A heating footstool comprising:

a hollow casing having an inclined top wall, said inclined top wall being angled relative to a ground surface so as to allow feet of an intended user to ergonomically rest thereupon;

a heating means mounted within said hollow casing for heating said inclined top wall;

said hollow casing further defining a front wall and a back wall;

said front wall and said back wall being respectively provided with an inlet aperture and an outlet aperture for allowing ambient air surrounding said hollow casing to flow through said inlet aperture into said hollow casing and then out through said outlet aperture so as to allow said ambient air to come into contact with said heating means and to allow said heated ambient air to warm the surroundings of said heating footstool;

said heating means including an electrical heating component coupled to a conventional electrical cord;

said electrical heating component being electrically coupled to an electrical relay, said electrical relay allowing said electrical heating component to be selectively activated and turned off according to a predetermined time pattern;

said electrical heating component being further coupled to a foot switch, said foot switch being operable by the foot of an intended user and positioned adjacent said top surface.

Applicant hopes that he has responded to the Office Action in an appropriate manner.

Requests For Constructive Assistance

The undersigned has made a diligent effort to amend the claims of this application so that they define unobvious structure because it produces new and unexpected results. If for any reasons the claims of this application are not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner in drafting one or more claims pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) or in making constructive suggestions pursuant to MPEP 706.03(d) in order that this application can be placed in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

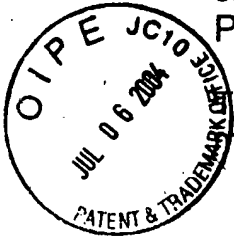
Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard Fournier".

Bernard Fournier

Applicant pro se

I hereby certify that this correspondence has been deposited with the
United States Postal Service using "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee"
service in an envelope addressed to : Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 6th, 2004



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Jennie M. G. Johnson
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